WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleotide nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding protein which has three EGF-like domains and two discoidin I/factor VIII-like domains.

2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19.

3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or its complement.

4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 or its complement.

5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28 or its complement.

6. A recombinant DNA vector containing a nucleotide sequence of Claim 2, 3, 4 or 5.

7. A recombinant DNA vector containing a nucleotide sequence that encodes a Del-1 fusion protein.

8. The recombinant DNA vector of Claim 6 in which the *del-1* nucleotide sequence is operatively associated with a regulatory sequence that controls gene expression in a host cell.

9. The recombinant DNA vector of Claim 7 in which the *del-1* fusion protein nucleotide sequence is operatively

associated with a regulatory sequence that controls fusion protein gene expression in a host cell.

10. An engineered host cell that contains the recombinant DNA expression vector of Claim 8.

11. An engineered cell line that contains the recombinant DNA expression vector of Claim 8 and expresses Del-1.

12. An engineered cell line that contains the recombinant DNA expression vector of Claim 9 and expresses Del-1 fusion protein.

13. The engineered cell line of Claim 11 or 12 which expresses the Del-1 on the surface of the cell.

14. The engineered cell line of Claim 11 or 12 that expresses the Del-1 as a soluble protein or fragments thereof.

15. A method for producing recombinant Del-1 comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA expression vector containing a nucleotide sequence that encodes a Del-1 protein; and

(b) recovering the Del-1 protein gene product from the cell culture.

16. A method for producing recombinant Del-1 fusion protein, comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA expression vector containing a nucleotide sequence that encodes a Del-1 fusion protein; and

(b) recovering the Del-1 fusion protein from the cell culture.

17. An isolated recombinant Del-1 protein which has three EGF-like domains and two discoidin I/factor VIII-like domains..

18. A fusion protein comprising Del-1 linked to a heterologous protein or peptide sequence or portions thereof.

19. An oligonucleotide which encodes an antisense sequence complementary to the *del-1* nucleotide sequence, and which inhibits translation of the *del-1* gene in a cell.

20. The oligonucleotide of Claim 19 which is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino terminal region of the *del-1*.

21. An antibody which immunospecifically binds to an epitope of the Del-1.

22. The antibody of Claim 21 which is of monoclonal origin.

23. The antibody of Claim 22 which competitively inhibits the binding of a molecule to the Del-1.

24. The antibody of Claim 22 which is linked to a cytotoxic agent.

25. The antibody of Claim 22 which is linked to a radioisotope.

26. The antibody of Claim 22 which is anchored on a solid support.

27. The antibody of Claim 22 which is linked to biotin.

28. A method for screening and identifying antagonists of Del-1 comprising:

(a) contacting a cell line that expresses Del-1 with a test compound; and

(b) determining whether the test compound inhibits the expression or function of Del-1.

29. The method according to Claim 28 in which the cell line is a genetically engineered cell line.

30. The method according to Claim 28 in which the cell line endogenously expresses Del-1.

31. A method for screening and identifying a binding partner of Del-1 activity comprising:

(a) contacting Del-1 protein with a random peptide library such that Del-1 will recognize and bind to one or more peptide species within the library;

(b) isolating the Del-1 combination; and

(c) determining the sequence of the peptide isolated in step b.

32. The method according to Claim 31 in which the Del-1 protein is genetically engineered.

33. A method of detecting and isolating embryonic cells comprising incubating a cell mixture with an anti-Del-1 antibody, and isolating the antibody-bound cells.